

## Glossary

**A.H.:** Anno Hegirae, in the year of the Hajj

**Abraham and Moses:** The greatest of the Prophet-Messengers.  
The phrase "peace be upon them" is often written after their names.

**Abraham:** Patriarchal figure, the father of the Jewish faith who championed monotheism

**Abyssinia** (ab-i-SIN-ee-uh): Traditional name for the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia in particular

**Agnostic:** A person who holds that the ultimate cause and essential nature of things are unknown and unknowable

**Alawite:** Also known as "Nusayris" because of their connection with the Nusayriyah Mountains in northwestern Syria, these peoples seem to be descendants of original peoples living in Alexandrian times. Originally possessing a distinct pre-Islamic religion, over time they adopted both Islamic and Christian elements to their faith. Alawis celebrate Christmas, Easter and Epiphany, and use sacramental wine. Many of their faith tenets are secret. They study the Qur'an and recognize the five pillars of Islam.

**Alevi Shia**(al-leh-VEE): Minority Islamic practice in Turkey which often faced persecution. Though now recognized as a distinct school of thought, practitioners still follow a highly secretive faith and practice.

**ALLAHU AKBAR** (uhl-lah-hoo AHK-bar): God is great

**Amir** (uh-MEEHR): Commander, ruler, prince, in the Arabian Peninsula

**Anatolia** (an-ah-TOH-lee-ah): Historically, Asia Minor. Refers now to the Asian portion of Turkey (Eastern Turkey)

**Armenian:** Some of the Middle East's earliest Christian peoples. During WW I, this ethnic group experienced mass genocide. The effects of this treatment continue today.

**Asheknazi** (ahsh-kah-NAH-zee) Jewish people: Jewish immigrants who came to Israel from northern and eastern Europe (and their descendants from America).

**Ashura** (ah-shoo-RA): Commemorates the martyrdom of Husain (grandson of the prophet Muhammad) on the tenth of Muharram, A.H. 61 (A.D. 680)

**Assyrians:** Iraqi ethnic group who live in major cities or rural northeastern Iraq. Often professionals, business advocates or independent farmers. Most are Christian.

**Ataturk** (AT-ah-tuhrk): 1st president of Turkey

**Ayatollah** (a-yat-ool-LAH): A mullah who achieves the highest level of leadership in the Shia community through extensive academic study

**B.C.E.:** Before Common Era

**Baath Party** (BAAH-th): Arab Socialist Resurrection party which unified the democratic socialist Arab nations. Its founding congress was in Damascus in 1947.

**Bahais** (bah-HAH-ee): Originally a Shia reformist movement, this group developed into a religion stressing brotherhood of all, equality of sexes, and pacifism.

**Baraka** (BAHR-uh-kah): Indigenous Berber belief that a personal, special spiritual power is given to certain humans. These saints are known in the West as marabouts.

**Bedouin** (BED oo-in): Traditional peoples of the deserts and pastures of the Middle East

**Berbers:** Traditional North African peoples. Presently, members of this ethnic group inhabit mountain regions or urban centers. Berbers trace their lineage to time before the Arab conquest.

**Bilal** (bee-LAHL): An African who called the Prophet Muhammad to prayer

**Blood money:** Revenge taken out on a person, clan or group when family honor is disgraced

**Brotherhoods:** Men's organization which follows a common spiritual discipline. Often a marabout founded such a fraternity. Tariqah (discipline, path) practiced by the brotherhood, enabled them to pursue closeness to God.

**C.E.:** Common Era

**Caliphs** (KAY-lifs): Historic leaders who provided religious and civil leadership in Muslim communities from A.D. 632 to the mid-thirteenth century. In practice, kings, sultans, and the ulama took over caliph powers from the ninth century onward.

**Chador** (chah-DUHR): The woman's shawl (head covering) used by many Middle Eastern women

**Christmas:** Celebration of Jesus' birth

**Circassian** (chir-cas-see-AHN): Muslim descendants of Caucasus Mountains people who live presently in Jordan. They are important figures in Jordan's government, business, military, and security.

**Complementary Roles:** Traditional outlook which sees man as protector, and women enjoying the fruits of this guardianship in the security, protection, and respect given them in the home.

**Consumer Values:** Negative Western values often imported to the Middle East by new communications technology. Moral permissiveness, crime, narcotics, indecency, polluted culture and secularized attitudes towards religion are often seen as manifestations of consumer values.

**Coptic Orthodox:** Located in Egypt and parts of Ethiopia, Coptic practitioners believe their founder to be St. Mark the Evangelist, first bishop of Alexandria.

**Creative generalizations:** Concepts--tempered with care, refinement, always subject to modification and open to change--which enable us to make careful statements. When kept dynamic, flexible and tentative, this conceptual format enables us to make intelligible statements about others.

**Cultural sensitivity:** Possession of attitudes and knowledge which enables one to be aware of and interact with differing ethnic, racial and national groups.

**Culture Shock:** The disorientation and upset which often accompany traveling to a new country or situation. Emotions vary including euphoria, distress, resentment, hostility, rebellion, and negativity.

**Culture:** That which guides people in their thinking, acting and feeling. Language, values, customary behaviors; ideas, beliefs and patterns of thinking; these attributes describe social characteristics of a people. The total way of life of a group--passed on from generation to generation.

**Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques:** Title taken in 1986, by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. No longer is he called "Your Majesty" or other secular titles.

**Dar al-Islam (dahr-ul-is-LAM):** The Islamic world...those territories guided by Islamic law

**Day of Hajj:** (ahl-HAHJ, Day of Arafat) Commemorates the concluding revelation to the Prophet at Mt. Arafat, a mountain about eighteen kilometers east of Mecca.

**Deputyship:** An expression of the dominion humankind demonstrates over this world which is fulfilled through religious leaders--the ulama

**Disinherited:** The poor, dispossessed, unemployed of a society. Often young, this sub-class seems to have little future. In some Middle East countries, the disinherited are educated but have no jobs available.

**Divine Decree:** Belief that everything is decided by God and in some sense comes from Him

**Druze (drooz):** Ethnic minority living in Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. Their belief incorporates elements of mysticism, Islam, Christianity, and traditional belief. Known as serious, tenacious fighters.

**Epiphany:** (Manifestation). In the Western church, this event marks the presentation of Christ to the gentiles (non-Jewish peoples), being associated primarily with the journey of the wise men.

**Ethnocentrism:** Seeing other people's way of life only through one's own "glasses," regarding your own culture as superior in all ways, which leads to unhealthy, proud attitudes, arrogant self-righteousness, and feelings of haughtiness which can destroy personal relationships.

**Evil Eye:** The glance or look of certain individuals causes an evil or deadly spell, and danger is particularly great when accompanied by an 'evil mouth,' that is, by loose talk, praise, joking or cursing.

**Exodus:** Term to describe the exit of the Israelites from Egypt

**Expatriates:** Persons who live apart or withdraw from their native land or country

**Extremists:** Fanatics who use their religion for political ends

**Face:** Importance of manner one is perceived by others. All peoples value "face" to some degree or other.

**Farsi** (Persian): Official language of Iran

**Fatima** (FAHL-tee-mah): Wife of Ali and daughter of the Prophet Muhammad

**Fatwa** (FAT-wuh): Formal decisions given on legal, moral, or doctrinal questions. Often the procedures for arriving at this consensus are complex and intricate.

**Fellahin** (fel-uh-HEEN): Peasant class inhabiting Egypt

**Folk beliefs and customs**--belief in evil spirits (jinns), amulets made of Qur'anic verses to ward off these spirits, the "evil eye" and stones carrying magic qualities--are formally denounced by government leaders as "unworthy of the Islamic monotheistic religion."

**Folk Islam:** Draws from popular Sufi practice. Pious individuals after death become saints who can mediate between believers and God. Veneration of saints and pilgrimages to their shrines and graves became widespread.

**Fundamentalism:** Emotive label, often categorizing those who would return to the basic, traditional, fundamental elements of their belief or practice. Some fundamentalists can be non-violent, conservative individuals who seek peaceful change. Others are extremists who advocate violent change.

**Fundamentalist positions of Islamic women:** Advocates who apply strict interpretations of the Qur'an and sharia to women. Many bar women from working outside the home or attending higher educational institutions.

**Genocide:** Systematic killing of a nation or ethnic group

**Golden Rule:** Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

**Greater jihad:** The struggle against inward passions but also includes work to overcome underdevelopment, counteract propaganda, or offering cultural resistance to secularization influences.

**Green Book:** Omar Qadhafi's vision for Libya's future

**Hadith** (hah DEETH): Reports of what Muhammad, or his companions, said and did. Next to the Qur'an, hadith is the most important source of Muslim instruction.

**Hagar** (HAH-jehr): Servant woman of Abraham who gave birth to Ishmael

**Hajj** (al-HAHJ--Pilgrimage): At least once in a lifetime, preferably during the twelfth month of the calendar, a Muslim takes a trip to Mecca. No one goes on Hajj without first ensuring that family members are provided for in their absence.

**Halakah** (hah-LOH-khah): The totality of the Jewish rabbinic law

**Hamas** (hah-MAHS, Movement for Islamic Resistance): Founded in 1988, this Sunni organization, with historic ties to the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, is a major force in Gaza and the West Bank. It advocates a jihad on Israel as the only solution to the Palestinian issue. An Islamic state in Palestine is the goal. Hamas opposes non-Islamic elements of the PLO.

**Hanbalite** (HAHN-buh-leyet): Imam Hanbal (d. 855), from Baghdad, followed a strict interpretation of the Shariah. Strong in present day Arabia, especially Saudi Arabia, Hanbal thought influenced the revivalist ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

**Harratines** (hahr-rhah-THEEN): The black Muslim population of Morocco

**Hassan al-Turabi** (hah-SHAN ahl-tu-RHAH-bee): Sudanese cleric, member of the Muslim Brotherhood, who is seen as the de facto leader of the country

**Hejab** (HEHZH-yuh): Properly modest attire for women used to enforce traditional women's roles in secular society

**High Holidays:** Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the two most important Jewish festivals of the year

**Hijra** (HIJ-ruh): Migration of the prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina (A.D.622). This date begins the Islamic calendar.

**Hizballah** (HEZ-bul-LAH): Radical Shi'a party. An Iranian creation but a strictly Lebanese Shi'a movement...It is the by-product of Israeli bombardment of Shi'ite villages in south Lebanon and the subsequent harsh policy employed by Israeli troops against the inhabitants, who had once looked to Israel for support before the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The primary aim of the movement is to liberate south Lebanon from Israeli occupation, but, to the extent Islamic Iran is behind it, Hizballah will be committed to the...liberation and Islamization of Palestine.

**Holocaust** (HOL ah kohst): Devastation, persecution and death experienced by many German Jewish peoples and others during World War II

**Honor:** Chastity, purity, respect and high regard given to individuals and families by others. Maintaining family honor is one of the highest values in Arab society.

**Husayn** (hoo-SAYN): The third Imam, killed near Karbala in Iraq in A.D. 680. His death is especially remembered by Shia Muslims.

**Husayn Ibn Ali** (hoo-SAYN ibn-AH-lee): Blood relative of Muhammad, killed in the battle at Karbala. His death is an important event within the Shia community.

**Ibadi Islam** (ah-ee-BAD-ah): Traces its history from the Kharijite Shi'a school of thought. In Oman during the eighth century, one of the leaders who surfaced to suppress fanatical elements of the Kharijite school was Abd Allah ibn Ibad. His followers became known as Ibadis, the leaders of Oman.

**Id al-Adha:** (i-EED ahl-OOHD-hah, Festival of Sacrifice). The concluding act of pilgrimage. Muslims offer sheep, goats, and camels in a pattern after Abraham's offering of his son Isma'il to God. The poor and needy receive the meat.

**'Id al-Fitr:** (i-EED al FAHT-ehr, Festival of the Breaking of the Fast). Celebrates the end of Ramadan. It comes on the first day of the month Shawwal, which follows Ramadan.



**In Sha Allah**, (in SHAH ahl-lah): Transliteration of Arabic for "If God Wills..."

**Imam** (i-MAHM): Leads prayers for the faithful. Also, these leaders may derive authority from their abilities in religious scholarship.

**Imamate** (ee-MAHM-uh): Spiritual and political leader combined. Prominent in Iraq

**Infibulation**: Female genital cutting, a puberty rite practiced in some African countries

**Ishmael** (ISH-may-uhl): Muslims believe Abraham was ready to offer this son upon the altar at Mt. Moriah.

**Islam** (is-LAHM): Obedience or peace through submission to the will of God

**Islamic Aydin**(I-din): Turkish Islamic intellectual

**Islamism**: Term used to describe radical, militant, extremist political Muslim practice

**Ismailis** (ahl-is-MHAHL-i-lee-uh): Shias known as Seveners because they believe Ismail was the seventh imam...Ismaili beliefs are complex and syncretic, combining elements from the philosophies...as well as components of Judaism, Christianity, and Eastern religions...the secrecy with which they veil their religious beliefs and practices make it extremely difficult to establish what their actual religious beliefs are.

**Israel Defense Forces (IDF)**: Military forces of the nation of Israel

**Jerusalem**: The city of David, the capital of the nation of Israel during his reign

**Jewish Militants:** Jewish religious nationalists who openly advocate replacing the political system with a theocracy based upon the word of God as they interpret it. Violence, self-righteous hatred, and intolerance can be marks of this school of thought.

**Jibril** (jib-REEL): (Gabriel), most important angel in Islam. Delivered the Qur'an

**Jihad** (ji-HAD): Sometimes seen as a sixth foundational element of Islam, Western media stereotypes it as "holy war." A more accurate portrayal sees jihad as an exertion or struggle in achieving the ways of God. Jihad describes an attentiveness against distractions from God, exertion to do His will within ourselves, and reestablishing order in Islamic society and the world at large.

**Jinn:** Moroccans generally believe in the existence of a special group of spiritual beings called jinn, whose supernatural powers can be used either for good or ill.

**Julian calendar:** Used by Eastern Christianity, the forerunner to the calendar most Americans currently use (the Gregorian). Instituted by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., the Julian calendar bases its calculations on the length of time it takes the earth to revolve around the sun.

**Kaabah** (KAH-bah): Object in Mecca, thought by Muslims to be constructed by Abraham and Ishmael. It is a shrine of worship, the most holy place in Islam.

**Karbala** (KAR ba-luh): Site of battlefield in present day Iraq. Muhammad's blood relative Husayn ibn Ali and 70 followers died by the hands of the Umayyads (Damascus Muslims).

**Khadija** (kha-DEE-jah): Muhammad's foremost wife, thought by many to be the first convert to Islam

**Khaled Bin Sultan:** Joint Forces Commander during Operation Desert Shield/Storm/Farewell. General in the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces. Wrote Desert Warrior.

**Kharijite Shi'a Islam** (ah khahr-ee-JEEN): In controversy over the assassination of the third caliph (Uthman), part of Ali's army left his camp, thus being referred to as kharijites (ones who leave). Kharijites also became a designation for Muslims who refused to compromise with those who differed from them. Their actions caused the Sunni community to consider them assassins.

**King Hassan II:** Moroccan King who has ruled since 1961

**Kurd:** Speaking a distinct language, these peoples occupy traditional homelands in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran.

**Kurdistan:** Portion of southwest Asia inhabited primarily by Kurdish peoples

**Kurds:** Iraqi ethnic group which inhabit highlands and mountain valleys. Kurds speak a distinct language.

**Laylat al-Qadr:** (LAHY-let ahl-KAHD-ehr, Night of Power) commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an. This event came to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 C.E. (A.D.), when he was forty years old.

**Lesser jihad:** Describes just war--taking up arms in offensive and defensive postures

**Levant** (li-VANT): East Mediterranean seaboard countries

**Lunar Calendar:** Using the moon to calculate the days marking a given calendar year.

**Maghrib** (MUH-grib): The western Islamic world (the time or place of the sunset--the west) which traditionally includes Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Tripolitania [populous portions of Libya]. Mauritania is sometimes also treated as a part of the region.

**Magi** (MAY-ji): Wise men who came to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church, Epiphany remembers the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, and the miracle at Cana when Jesus turned the water into wine. Many Middle Eastern churches emphasize Epiphany much more than the traditional Christmas.

**Mahdi** (MAH-dee): Millennial leaders who will defeat enemies of Islamic religion at the end of history, establishing peace and justice upon the earth.

**Marabouts** (MAHR-eh-boots): "Friends of God" or popular saints. Locals often see these holy individuals as possessing spiritual/mystical powers and seek out their prayers and blessings. Though condemned in some orthodox Islamic circles, pilgrimages to these living saints or visits to the tombs of their dead still occur.

**Marsh Arab:** Peoples who inhabit the river regions of southern Iraq

**Maures** (MOHR-ees): Mauritanian ethnic group who trace their ancestry to Arab-Berber origins. Two strata, the warriors and the religious leaders, dominate their society. The latter are also known as marabouts.

**Mawlid al-Nabiy** (MOW-lid oon-NA-bee): (Birthday of the Prophet). The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. For many Muslims, this day ranks third in importance, after 'Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha.

**Mecca** (MAK-kuh): Place of Muhammad's birth. Location of the Kaabah

**Medina** (ma-DEE-nuh): City Muhammad escaped to after troubles experienced in Mecca. Muhammad is buried here.

**Meskel:** Celebration of the finding of the true cross of St. Helena. Observed in Eritrea.

**Militant Fundamentalists:** Those who see their religion as the bringing about of revolutionary change in their societies--often through violent means. Also called fanatical extremists, radicals, or renegades.

**Modernist Muslims:** Those who interpret their faith in terms of modern knowledge. These adherents often accept many Western scientific ideas.

**Modernization:** Using the scientific and technological methods of the contemporary world to bring about change in society. Within Muslim circles, many accept modernization but reject the Western values which often accompany such change.

**Moharram** (muh-HAR-rahm): Month during which many Shia Muslims remember the martyrdom of Husayn and his 70 followers.

**Monochronic time:** Having a tendency to do only one thing at a time. Describes the approach to time held by many Americans.

**Monogamy:** Practice of marriage to only one wife or husband

**Monotheism:** Belief in one God

**Moses:** Leader of the Israelites from the land of bondage in Egypt

**Muezzin** (moo-uh-TH-thin): The crier who calls worshippers to prayer

**Mufti** (MUF-tee): Scholars in Islamic law

**Muhammad** (moo-HAM-mad): The last of the Islamic prophets. The founder of the Islamic faith.

**Mujahideen** (muh-jhah-hi-DEEN): Islamic holy warriors who declared the war against the Soviets to be a "holy war."

**Mujahidun** (moo-ja-hid-OON): Present day activists who seek to revive Islamic society

**Mujtahids** (MUZH-ta-hids): Religious leaders (Shia) of the highest authority...Scholars in the science of religion who also demonstrate an ability to decide on matters of religious conduct.

**Mullahs** (MUL-luhs): Local Shi'ite men of religion

**Muslim** (MOOS-lim): Obedient one...one who submits

**Muslim Brotherhoods:** Founded in Egypt, this male organization bonds together many followers of Islam. The brotherhood in Egypt claims to be non-violent.

**Neo-Orthodox (Orthodox Zionists):** Modern Jewish Orthodox adherents who adhere to the halakah (totality of rabbinic law) yet do not cut themselves off from society. They attempt to reconcile Zionism and religious orthodoxy, seeing Israel as a Zionist state. They participate in major institutions of the state, including the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

**Nile Delta:** Region in northern Egypt where the Nile River fans out to form well irrigated, rich farmland

**Nubian (NOO bee-uhn):** Traditional African peoples who inhabited the upper Nile Valley. The Aswan Dam destroyed their ancestral home. Now many Nubians live in Cairo, Luxor, and Khartoum.

**Ogaden (oh-jah-DEEN):** Area of southwest Sudan/Ethiopian border where a dispute between these two countries continues to take place

**Operation Provide Comfort:** UN approved relief effort which set up a safe haven in northern Iraq for Kurdish refugees. Incirlik, Turkey serves as the base for rapid deployment of air forces to enforce a no-fly zone in the region.

**Orthodox Eastern:** Following the A.D. 1054 split of the Christian Church, those who saw Constantinople as the main church center became known as this term.

**Ottoman Empire:** Area of Turkish domination (c. 1300-1918) including at its peak much of SE Europe, SW Asia, and NE Africa.

**Pagonis, Gus:** Lieutenant General who was chief Allied logistician during Operations Desert Shield/Storm/Farewell

**Palestine:** Land of Canaan, area of present day Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip

**Palestinian:** Peoples who either fled Palestine during the Arab-Israel war of 1948/June 1967, or individuals born to Palestinians who live in the Holy Land. A number of Palestinians currently live in East Bank camps, the Gaza Strip, or as refugees.

**Pashtun:** Politically powerful ethnic group in Afghanistan. They speak Pashtu and follow a rigorous ethical teaching.

**Patriarch:** Head of the church in Orthodox Eastern Christianity

**Patriarchal:** Having to do with the father or ruler of a clan or family

**Peace operations:** An umbrella term that encompasses three types of activities--those that lead diplomatically (preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace building) and two complementary, predominately military, activities (peacekeeping and peace-enforcement).

**People of the Book:** Jewish and Christian believers who live under the Dar al-Islam, often enjoying special protection in exchange for taxation.

**Perceptions:** Our mental grasp of others and their ideas of us.

**Pesah:** (PAY-sahk, Passover) commemorates the departure of the Israelites from Egypt. The eight day observance consists of reciting special prayers and eating symbolic foods. The first and last two days of Pesah are ones of special observance. This remembrance is a high point of Jewish life.

**Place of Assembly:** Location in Massawa, Eritrea, where Muhammad's early followers first prayed on the African continent during the first Hijra of 615.

**Political Expediency:** Those who use any means available to accomplish their political ends. Some Middle East leaders use Islam in a pragmatic sense--only to bring about their intended political objectives.

**Politicized Islam:** Another term for fanatical extremist practice. Adherents use their religious belief to bring about political ends--often with violent means.

**Polychronic time:** Tending to be involved in many things at once. Describes those who live in many non-European countries of the world.

**Popular Islam:** An overlay of Qur'anic ritual and ethical principles on a background of belief in spirits, the evil eye, rights to assure good fortune, and the veneration of local saints.

**Prejudice:** Rigid, negative attitudes based on faulty, preconceived, inflexible generalizations, which numb our ability to understand others. Prejudice too readily violates objective standards of fairness, justice, and impartiality.

**Progressive Islamic positions regarding women:** Muslims who work for full women's legal and religious rights. The "Sisters of Islam" is one such movement within Islam. Members advocate laws against domestic violence and Qur'an interpretations formulated by women theologians.

**Proverbs:** Short, pithy sayings commonplace in most every culture

**Queen Noor:** American born wife of Jordan's King Hussein.

**Quietist:** Individuals and groups who advocate peaceful, non-violent, quiet change in their society

**Qur'an (QOOR-ahn):** Holy book revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad

**Rabbi:** Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

**Rabbinic law:** Religious law interpreted by Jewish rabbis



**Ramadan** (RAH-mah-dahn): A holy month of fasting wherein Muslims, who are physically able, do not eat or drink from the first sign of dawn until sunset.

**Religious nationalism:** A less emotionally charged term for fundamentalist movements who use religion as their base. The term describes those who apply their religion to promote national/political ends.

**Revivalist Muslims:** Individuals who reject Western ideas and call for a return to traditional Islamic ideas

**Revivalists:** Those take their religion seriously, advocating a devout return to the piety and practice of their beliefs

**Rosh Hashanah** (rohsh hah-shah-NAH): (New Year's Day) is the beginning of the Jewish calendar. Celebrated for two days, it marks the anniversary of the creation of the world. The day serves as a day of examination for all people, the examiner being the righteous and merciful creator.

**Salat** (shul-LAH--Prayers): Five times each day, Muslims pray in Arabic. Salat consists mainly of verses from the Qur'an, praises to God, and requests for guidance. Adherents bow toward the Kaabah in Mecca when praying.

**Sarah:** Wife of Abraham who gave birth to Isaac in her old age

**Sarawi, Huda** (hoo-DAH sah-RAH-wee): One of Egypt's first progressive women. In 1923, she threw her veil into the Mediterranean. Eventually, Sarawi founded the Egyptian Feminist Union.

**Sawm** (SOO-uhm--Fasting): During the month of Ramadan, thanksgiving is expressed, discipline shown, and communal solidarity and reconciliation affirmed. Practitioners abstain from food and drink from dawn to sunset.

**Schwarzkopf, H. Norman:** General Joint Forces Commander during Desert Shield/Storm/Farewell. Author of It Doesn't Take a Hero.

**Sephardim** (seh-FAHR-dim, Oriental) Jewish people: Jewish immigrants who came to Israel from the Mediterranean, Balkan, Aegean, and Middle Eastern lands.

**Shahada** (sha-HAHD-ah--Witnessing): This is the essential creed of Muslim belief. It is repeatedly invoked as part of daily prayer. The shahada states: "There is no god but God and Muhammad is the messenger of God."

**Sharia** (sha REE ah): The religious law of Islam. Sharia can vary from state to state and within various Muslim movements.

**Shema** (shuh-MAH): The call--"Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, The Lord is One," which summarizes the most fundamental characteristic of God within Jewish thought.

**Shia** (SHEE-uh): Followers who believe Muhammad specified that his cousin and son-in-law Ali would be his successor. The charisma of Muhammad passed on in direct blood lineage through a family dynasty. Religious and political authority rests in imams alone.

**Solar calendar:** Using the sun to calculate the days marking a given calendar year

**Stereotypes:** Rigid biases applied to all peoples of a particular group--thus simplifying and demeaning others. Perceptions become immune to logic and experience. A stereotyped template skews all incoming information. Depersonalization and dehumanization result. Individuals become caricatured, distorted, and seen too often only in a negative light.

**Sword of Syria:** Name given to Druze militia personnel because of their excellence in military concerns

**Suffrage:** The right to vote

**Sufi** (SOO-fee): Within both Sunni and Shia circles there are branches of mystical/spiritual intensity. This school of thought defines the Sufi mystic orientation. "Like the heart of the body of Islam--invisible from the outside but giving nourishment to the whole organism," so the pietism of this school exerts an influence on all Islam.

**Sunna** (SOON-nuh): Prophet Muhammad's practice and way of life

**Sunni** (SOON-nee): Elders who saw Muhammad's successor as chosen by the community of those who follow the ethical/religious Muslim path. Authority rests in the community, guided by ulama consensus and Islamic law.

**Sura**, (SOO-ruh): Chapter of the Qur'an

**Syncretistic**: Blended, including other beliefs or practices

**Ta'if Accord** (TAWH-if), The blueprint for Lebanon reconciliation. The Lebanese established a more equitable political system, particularly giving Muslims a greater say in the political process.

**Taliban** (tahl-ee-BAHN): Militant Islamist student youth movement in Afghanistan which currently rules 70% of the country

**Tariqatlar**(tahr-rhee-KAT-lar): Sufi orders or lodges, headed by a teacher or master, where devotees take a path of instruction to perfection.

**Tawhid** (tou HEED): Proclamation of the oneness of God. Tawhid implies as well the inseparability of church and state (religion and politics).

**T.E. Lawrence**: British traveler, explorer, military figure, and Arabist active in the Middle East during the first part of this century.

**Territorial sexuality**: Sex role outlook where allocations of "space" mark the areas where each sex has freedom, influence and authority. In some Middle Eastern countries, men's "space" is in the public arena--especially in urban locations. A woman's "space" is within the home.

**Torah** (TOH-rah): Law. Encompasses the whole of the Jewish scriptures

**Traditional Islamic views of the woman's position:** While spiritually equal, women are barred from leadership positions outside the home. Their sphere of influence, and grounds for respect, stem from the position taken within the home and family.

**Twelver Shias:** "Twelver" derives from the disappearance of the twelfth imam, Al Mahdi al Muntazar, in about 874. He was a child, and after his disappearance he became known as a messianic figure, Al Mahdi, who never died but remains to this day hidden from view. The Twelver Shias believe his return will usher in a golden era.

**Ugly Americanism:** Stereotyped notion of American tourists/travelers common in the 1950s and 1960s. Held that Americans in general were very unconcerned about learning ways of another culture. Often, demonstrations of this callused approach included little concern for the environment (trash and consumerism rampant), mockery of traditional peoples, and rigid lack of desire to learn new ways.

**Ulama** (oo-la-mah): Leadership centers around these learned men who are responsible for interpreting divine law and administering Islamic society. Theology, law, and mysticism are also part of the curriculum for individuals desiring to become part of this select group.

**Ultra-orthodox:** Jewish orthodox adherents who generally cut themselves off from Israeli society at large. They reject Zionism. These practitioners are exempt from military service.

**Umma** (OOM-muh): Nation...peoplehood of Islam

**Westernization:** European and American values which often accompany modernization practices. Often the term is seen in a negative light by many Middle East Muslims.

**Woman's economic position within Islam:** The Qur'an guarantees property, inheritance, and monetary rights to women, whether single or married. In practice, these rights are often percentages less than those given their male counterparts.

**Yazidis** (yeh-ZHEE-dee): Iraqi Kurdish ethnic group which fuses elements of paganism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam. Impoverished and isolated, often they have experienced persecution.

**Yom Kippur** (YOHM kee-poor): (Day of Atonement) stresses repentance and forgiveness needed to reestablish oneness with God. One first seeks forgiveness from others and forgives those who have caused pain. Then comes confession of sin and seeking forgiveness from God. The most important and most personal holy day for most Jewish people.

**Zakat** (ZA-kat)--Almsgiving: The faithful demonstrate tangible worship by giving a kind of loan to God of from two to ten percent of one's income, payable at year's end. Charitable causes receive support in more spontaneous manners, as needs arise.

**Zawiya** (ZAH-wee-yah): Religious brotherhood center in a combined lodge/shrine

**Zoroastrian** (zohr-oh-AS-tree-uhn): Iranian religious minority founded by Zarathustra. Good/evil, final great battle, and fire temple rites (Yasna) are some of its distinct beliefs.